

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

Meeting date: January 2, 2018

Community Development Committee meeting of January 16, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 24, 2018

Subject: North Mississippi Regional Park Grant Request, Webber Natural Swimming Pool, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

District(s), Member(s): MPOSC District D, Catherine Fleming

Policy/Legal Reference: Laws of Minnesota 1985, First Special Session, Chap. 15, Sec. 5, Subd. 2(b); Laws of Minnesota 1987 Chapter 384, Article 3, Sec. 45; Laws of Minnesota 1998, Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Sec. 12; and Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 114, Article 4. MN Statutes 473.315; 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan Finance Strategy 6

Staff Prepared/Presented: Tori Dupre, Senior Planner (651-602-1621)

Division/Department: Community Development / Regional Planning

Proposed Action

1. That the Metropolitan Council approve a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to reimburse the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for the construction of a natural filtration swimming pool, bathhouse and site improvements at North Mississippi Regional Park. The grant will be funded from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund account.
2. Authorize the Community Development Director to execute the grant agreement on behalf of the Council.

Background

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (Park Board) requests that the Council approve a grant for \$1,000,000 to reimburse the construction costs of Webber Pool, a natural filtration swimming pool, bath house, and site improvements (Figure 1). The request is in response to a 2013 Metropolitan Council business item ([2013-205](#)), which included an action to “*consider reimbursing the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board up to \$1,000,000 from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund account for the construction of a natural filtration swimming pool, bathhouse and site improvements at North Mississippi Regional Park, when that amount of interest has been earned on the Council’s park bonds in accordance with State law*”.

Webber Pool is located within North Mississippi Regional Park in Minneapolis, which is located along the Mississippi River, extending from the Camden Bridge area to the I-694 bridge in Brooklyn Center. The regional park boundary includes approximately 94 acres.

The Council approved a regional park master plan and regional park boundaries in 1987, and subsequently two amendments in January 2003, and in July 2013. In the latter amendment (business item [2013-205](#)), the Council approved a regional park boundary expansion to include 16.24 acres of Webber Park as shown in Figure 2 (attached).

The Park Board completed the construction project, and now requests the reimbursement grant.

Rationale

The grant request is consistent with the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan, Finance Strategy 6, which states, in part, the “Council may reimburse regional park implementing agencies for the costs of acquiring some lands before they have been made part of the Regional Parks System, or for development projects undertaken before they can be financed through the Metropolitan Regional Parks Capital Improvement Program.” The grant request is also consistent with the Council’s action in business item [2013-205](#), authorizing the reimbursement consideration.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This request is consistent with Thrive’s livability outcome by increasing access to additional outdoor recreation opportunities, thereby enhancing the region’s quality of life.

Funding

The Council will fund the requested grant with the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund account, established by the Legislature in 1985 to acquire and develop the park. Specifically, MN Laws 1985, First Special Session, Chapter 15, Section 5, Subdivision 2(b), and MN Laws 1987, Chapter 384, Article 3, Section 45, and MN Laws 1998, Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Section 12 direct the Metropolitan Council to establish a separate account of interest earnings on park bonds and to grant funds from the account for the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park.

Known Support / Opposition

None

Figure 1: Grant Request Letter



**Minneapolis
Park & Recreation Board**

Administrative Offices
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227

Operations Center
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1000

Phone
612-230-6400

Fax
612-230-6500

www.minneapolisparcs.org

November 9, 2017

Mr. Emmett Mullin
Parks and Natural Resources manager
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: North Mississippi Regional Park Fund

Dear Mr. Mullin:

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board requests formal approval of reimbursement from the North Mississippi Regional Park Fund account for the construction of the Webber Natural Swimming Pool within North Mississippi Regional Park. The Council has previously approved action 2013-205, in which paragraph 5 authorized consideration of reimbursement of up to \$1,000,000 when that amount of interest has been earned. It is our understanding from Metropolitan Council staff that \$1,000,000 in interest is currently available.

Please bring this matter forward through the Metropolitan Council approval process as soon as is possible, and please also notify me of your proposed schedule for moving this item forward, so I may attend meetings and answer questions.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Adam Regn Arvidson, PLA, FASLA
Director of Strategic Planning
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

cc: Victoria DuPre, Metropolitan Council
Deb Jensen, Metropolitan Council

President
Anita Tabb

Vice President
John Erwin

Commissioners
Brad Bourn
Meg Forney
Steffanie Musich

Jon C. Olson
Scott Vreeland
Liz Wielinski
M. Annie Young

Superintendent
Jayne Miller

Secretary to the Board
Jennifer B. Rinqold

Figure 2: North Mississippi Regional Park Master Plan Boundary

